(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Promotion of tourism by 'Palace on Wheels'

†412. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of the train namely 'Palace on Wheels' introduced with a view to encouraging tourism and the number of such trains running;

(b) whether a few more such trains have been planned to be introduced; and

(c) the reasons for not introducing the Palace on Wheels proposed by the Government of Maharashtra as yet and the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) There are two luxury tourist trains *viz.* the 'Palace on Wheels' and the 'Royal Orient Express' introduced to encourage tourism. The 'Palace on Wheels' has become a popular luxury tourist train.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The coaches of the train are presently being manufactured. The project is to be commissioned by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC).

Railway power generation plants

413. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are actively considering installation its own power generation plants in order to partly meet their requirements in running the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether necessary study about economic viability of the project has been carried out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated savings in expenditure on purchase of power every year after production of power in own plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Railways are considering to install power generation plant(s) jointly with National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) for its own use.

(b) to (e) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with NTPC on 18.2.2002 for exploring the possibilities of setting up of Joint Venture Power Project(s). As per MoU, Project Committee of Railways and NTPC has been formed for preparation of techno-economic feasibility study report. The Committee is yet to submit its report and on the basis of the report, appropriate action will be taken.

Train accidents

†414. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major train accidents till 31st December during 2002 along with the dates of accidents, the places of their occurrence, number of people killed and injured in the same;

(b) the reasons for each accident and whether various commissions appointed after accidents have submitted their reports; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation keeping in view the recommendations made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The details of major accidents (involving 10 casualties or more), from April, 2002 to December, 2002, are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.